

consideration and I submit that this is a most important step which will help, not only to remove the stigmas which have so long existed, but may well aid contraception to become a worthy branch of preventive medicine.

CECIL I. B. VOGEL.

London School of Hygiene
and Tropical Medicine.

Eugenics and Capitalism

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—In support of his view that eugenists should be Socialists, Mr. F. J. Allaun gives four reasons. Surely they are fallacious. (1) It is not capitalism but pressure of population on the means of subsistence which, by leading to "producers requiring ever-expanding markets," causes the dysgenic phenomenon of war. (2) It is not "the private property system" which created the circumstance that "the intelligentsia cannot devote the required time and money to rearing children," because the property owners and intelligentsia had a high birth rate until the advent of contraception and socialistic legislation. Anti-socialist eugenists will have enjoyed Mr. Allaun's remark here that "it is hard to imagine anything more race-suicidal than the differential birth rate." (3) It is not true that bad environment (poverty, venereal disease, and alcoholism) is a serious dysgenic factor, because the only serious dysgenic factor for a nation is a lower rate of natural increase among its more worthy elements than among its less worthy. And, as regards unemployment, surely the present unemployment is largely due to the War and the Peace. There would be no war, poverty or dysgenics if the poor in every country had very small families. (4) It is true that "the Church has always opposed sexual reform," but the number of Christian anti-Socialists who deplore this is now considerable and increasing.

B. DUNLOP.

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—On page 346 of the REVIEW, Mr. F. J. Allaun, in trying to prove that no good thing, eugenically speaking, can come out of capitalism, makes certain surprising statements which cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged.

(1) "That every application of machinery, science, invention, etc., causes the masses untold suffering."

On the contrary, it is certain that the applications of science and machinery have been of untold benefit to the masses, who could not to-day exist without them; not even in that earthly paradise (?) of Soviet Russia, where forced mechanization proceeds apace and machinery is being installed on a vast scale.

(2) "That war is a necessary result of capitalism, and that because we shall have anti-racial wars whilst capitalism exists it follows that eugenists should wish its downfall."

But surely long ages before the capitalistic period there were tribal wars between savages, wars of honour between families and factions, civil wars, religious wars, and racial wars. Let us not forget the wars of ancient Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

If all countries had a communistic form of government, would there be no more wars? It is most improbable. Is Russia less prone to war than, say, Italy, and do people love one another more in Russia than in Italy? I doubt it. Is not the policy of communistic Russia all in the direction of preparation for war?

No! Wars are not due to the existence of capitalism. They are caused by the overthrow of calm reason by the elemental passions and emotions of men, from primitive man onwards through the ages. When men become ruled by reason rather than by rivalry, envy, jealousy, lust, suspicion, hate and other passions, then we shall have no more wars. The abolition of our present economic system will not ensure universal peace.

W. H. ATHERTON.

